Chapter 21:
The Confrontation of Edo Castle!

Keicho Year 9 (1604), four years after Sekigahara
As the world was being subjugated by the Tokugawa, many samurai were stripped of their stipends and driven out from their fiefdoms.
HAH!
HAAH!
HYAA AAH!
These Ronin warriors banded together into roving groups of brigands and bandits, hurling the land into chaos.
DEHA HAAAAH!

They put villages to the torch and robbed the people of both food and life.
AAAAH! HELP ME!!
The weak are always the victims... The peasants suffered, and not even the Tokugawas' policies could bring respite to the commoners.

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE HIDETADA THE POSITION OF SHOGUN ...
I CANNOT AFFORD TO DELAY MY RESPONSE ANY LONGER.
NOW ...
At a farmer's village near Sunpu...
YES.
Then Sakon's desire to preserve the Toyotomi would become an impossibility.
If Hidetada were to become the Shogun, then Shadow Warrior Jirosaburo, having outlived his usefulness, would be eliminated as an impediment by the Tokugawa.

EDO CASTLE !!
HE TOLD ME TO COME TO EDO! BUT IF I GO THERE, I'LL BE KILLED WHETHER OR NOT I REFUSE.
SUNPU CASTLE HAS NOT YET BEEN FINISHED... THE TIMING IS TOO BAD!
SO WHERE ARE YOU TO MEET?
YES. THAT WOULD BE ENEMY TERRITORY.
THIS SOUNDS AMUSING! GO, LORD SERADA!!

I NEVER SAID THAT.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DIE...?
HUH ?
MAKE CERTAIN HIDETADA KNOWS THE NATION WILL NEVER BE HIS PLAYTHING!
GO AND SHOW HIDETADA THE TERROR OF A WARRIOR OF THE WARRING STATES!
Y-YOU DON'T MEAN ...
HUH?
NOT COMPLETELY, HOWEVER.
YES.
HAVE HIS WOUNDS HEALED?
OFUU, I'D LIKE TO CALL ROKURO.

HE IS TRAINING AS HIS WOUNDS HEAL...
TO MASTER THE TECHNIQUE MY FATHER KOTARO TAUGHT HIM.
OH, THAT WOULD BE PERFECT.
THEN I WILL HAVE ROKURO BE YOUR ATTENDANT.
HMM ...
SO WHERE IS SIR ROKURO, ANYWAY?
HE IS CURRENT-LY ON MT. MONJUDAKE, NEAR THE CASTLE TOWN.
RIGHT.
HU
HU
HU
LOO

I NEED MORE TIME BEFORE I CAN PERFORM IT AT MASTER KOTARO'S LEVEL...
JUST A LITTLE MORE ...
PHEW ...

GENMUSAI...
THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTER HIS RAKSHASA MANSLAYING SWORD...
IS TO MASTER THE FUMA IMMOBILIZING LIGHTNING!!
BUT...
I HAVE NO TIME. I MUST HURRY...
!?

.....
OW!
AIEEEE! HELP ME!
WAIT, WAIT! YER NOT GETTIN' AWAY FROM US! HAHAHA!
DEHA HAHA!

AND OFF!
GOTCHA NOW!
YAA AAA AAH!
OH-HOHO!
IT'S SO BRIGHT!
DEHHE! I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY MORE!
AIE EEE EE!
HERE, TOO!

SHE'S RESISTING, SO STOP IT.
HUH? THE HELL ARE YOU?
HUH ?
HEY, STOP IT.
HERE COMES DADDY ...
HW HAH !?
I'LL HAVE TO STOP YOU IN-STEAD.
IF YOU WON'T STOP YOUR-SELVES ...
GET LOST, 'LESS YA WANNA DIE!
HEY, HEY, HEY! WHAT CAN A SHRIMP LIKE YOU ALL COVERED IN BANDAGES DO!?
YA CAN'T STOP ME NO MATTER HOW MANY GUYS YA GOT!
DEHE! I GOT THE POWER OF A HORSE!
HEH HEH ...

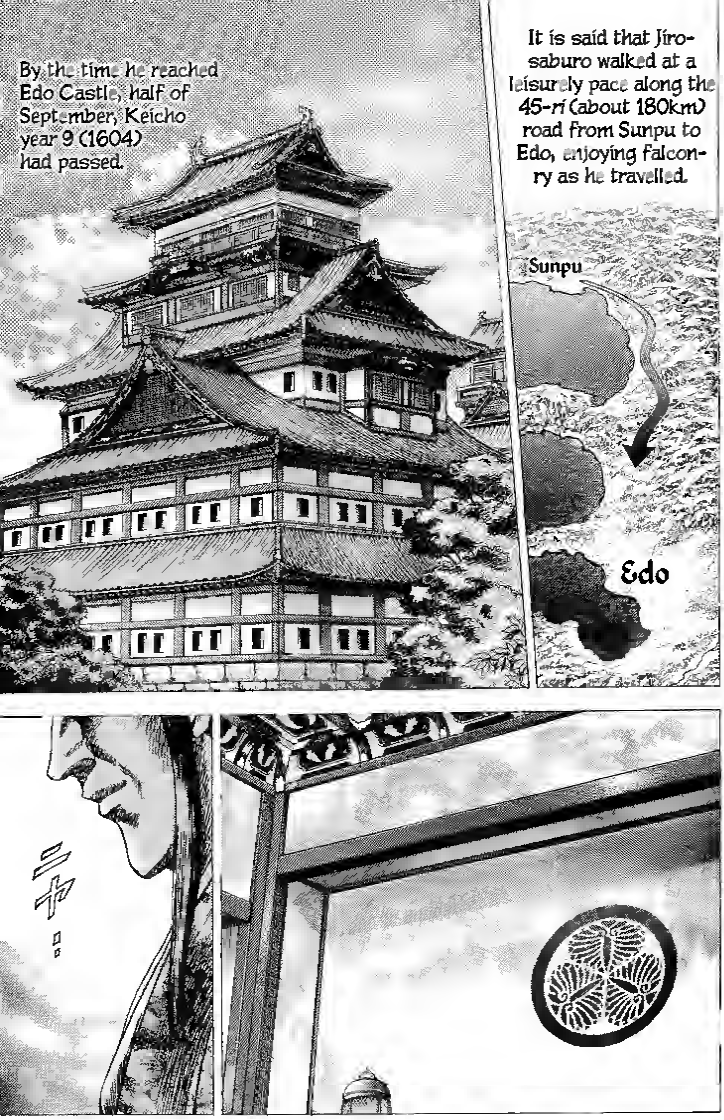
PHE EEE EW ...
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU DIE.
HUU UH !?
!?

YA MUST BE A MORON! HYAHYA HYAA!
HEY, WHAT THE FUCK ARE YA DOIN'?
NEITHER MUST OUTWEIGH THE OTHER!
REMEMBER, ROKURO! YOUR KI AND YOUR INNER POWER MUST FLOW SEPARATELY, BUT IN EQUILIBRIUM!
KU

HOB BH!
HUH ?
BER RAH !!
UHYAA WAWA WAAAA AAH!
PHEW ...

IS THIS ENOUGH TO DEFEAT GEN/MUSAI AND THE RAKSHASA ...?
NO.
YOU'VE MASTERED THE IMMOBILIZING LIGHTNING.
YOU'VE DONE IT, SIR ROKURO.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!?

TO EDO?
LORD SAKON WISHES YOU TO ACCOMPANY LORD IEYASU TO EDO.
YES. PLEASE RETURN AT ONCE.


By the time he reached Edo Castle, half of September, Keicho year 9 (1604) had passed.
It is said that Jirosaburo walked at a leisurely pace along the 45-ri (about 180km) road from Sunpu to Edo, enjoying falconry as he travelled.
Sunpu
Edo

YOU LOOK WELL, HIDETADA.
HEY.
...FATHER, OR SHOULD I SAY, SERADA JIROSABURO.
LONG TIME NO SEE ...
But now, Masanobu, as the chief aide, held the responsibility of advising Hidetada.
HEH... NO MATTER.
Jirosaburo and Honda Masanobu were once great friends who had battled side by side against Oda Nobunaga during the Ikko Uprising.
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, YOU FOOL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I'M HERE TODAY AS IEYASU! IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT, MASANOBU?
H-HEY! YOU'RE IN LORD HIDETADA'S PRESENCE! WATCH YOUR TONGUE!

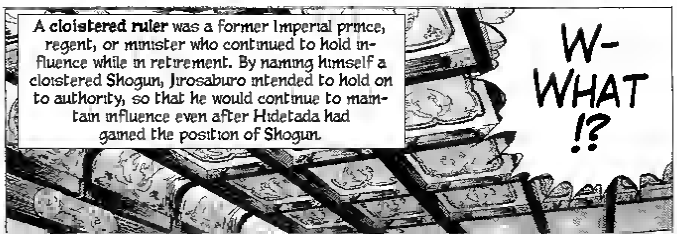
But you have done well in your duties as a Shadow Warrior. I will now permit you to return to the wild to wander as you please.
Making use of you has been a painstaking process...

As promised, I will hand the position of Shogun to you.
Hmpf.

Lord Hidetada, permit me to take certain measures against that.
But I cannot imagine that you would let me leave alive if I've outlived my usefulness
Then you will have no power remaining.
Yes.

I THOUGHT IT THROUGH, AND I JUST COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THE REAL LORD IEYASU WOULD SIMPLY GO INTO RETIREMENT AND LET YOU MANAGE THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN ALL BY YOURSELF.
HMM!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

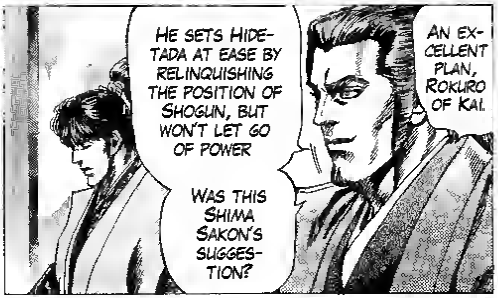
CALL IT DUAL POLITICS!! HIDETADA, I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM BEHIND !!
THAT IS WHY I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME A CLOISTERED SHOGUN !!


A **cloistered ruler** was a former Imperial prince, regent, or minister who continued to hold influence while in retirement. By naming himself a cloistered Shogun, Jirosaburo intended to hold on to authority, so that he would continue to maintain influence even after Hidetada had gained the position of Shogun.
W-WHAT !?

I'LL DISTRIBUTE LETTERS THAT SAY THAT LORD IEYASU DIED AT SEKIGAHARA, THAT THE CURRENT IEYASU IS A SHADOW, AND THAT THE TOKUGAWA CLAN, INCLUDING HIDETADA AND HIS BROTHERS, HAVE BEEN DECEIVING THE LORDS OF THE NATION!!
YOU CAN'T REFUSE!! OTHERWISE I'LL DISTRIBUTE THIS LETTER!!
I HAVE FUMA NINJAS WAITING WITH THE LETTER NEAR EVERY LORD IN THE NATION! IF THIS NATIONAL SECRET IS EXPOSED, THE TOKUGAWA WILL BE CRUSHED!!

J-JIROSA-BURO!!

LORD SHIMA DIED AT SEKIGAHARA.
WHOSE?


HE SETS HIDE-TADA AT EASE BY RELINQUISHING THE POSITION OF SHOGUN, BUT WON'T LET GO OF POWER
WAS THIS SHIMA SAKON'S SUGGES-TION?
AN EX-CELLENT PLAN, ROKURO OF KAI.

THIS IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE WILL OF LORD TOKU-GAWA IEYASU HIMSELF!!

SAKON 左近 ―戦国風雲録―

Chapter Twenty One

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

www.hokutonogun.com

FIGHT TAZMO

To my fellow fans -

Recently, a member of the community named Blud typed out a informative, and well written page that detailed the exploits of Narutofan creator Tazmo.

The point of this was to further spread the awareness of who Tazmo is, what he does, and why it is wrong. However, things like these tend to eventually need updating, and that is why this has been typed out.

What Blud stated is all very correct. However, it must be brought to everyones attention that Tazmo has expanded into full blown, stand alone websites that he has referred to as "revolutionary services".

http://www.anime-plus.com

and

http://www.manga-plus.com

These websites seek to misinform manga and anime fans across the world into believing that his services are fair, the only one of their kind, and more secure than using other resources such as IRC or BitTorrent to get what you want.

The truth is as follows: Tazmo himself uses IRC and BitTorrent to get the files on his websites. He uses the FREE resources that every single one of you can also use, so that he can charge you various fees for getting what is FREE.

Tazmo is profiteering off of a FREE service provided by various members of the anime and manga community who donate their spare time to bring the latest manga and anime to you for FREE. They donate their time, work, and abilities in various areas, as well as use their own bandwidth to serve files.

There are various FREE ways to get and read the manga you want. There are free online readers such as http://www.onemanga.com as well as http://www.mangahut.com.

There are also resource websites such as http://www.mangahelpers.com, http://www.mangashare.com, as well as database resource sites such as http://www.mangaupdates.com.

There are thousands of people who work thousands of hours weekly to bring you the manga you love to read, as well as the anime you love to watch. They do it not to make a profit, but for FREE as a FREE service to the community that we all love very much. **EVERYTIME TAZMO MAKES MONEY OFF OF THEIR HARD WORK HE NOT ONLY INSULTS THEM, BUT INSULTS ALL THOSE WHO PAY FOR HIS SERVICE. Do the right thing, stop supporting Tazmo.**

Drafted by Kaleb. Inspired by Blud. Free distribution with any releases is encouraged.
Fight Tazmo. Put this and Blud's page in your releases to get the word out.